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Mesquite Ranch

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TUCSON, AZ 85747-5946
[Barcode]

Dated Material

MESQUITE RANCH NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL MEETING:

Saturday - August 4, 2012
6:30 - 7:30 PM
Mesquite Ranch East Pool Facility

Mesquite Ranch Neighborhood Association (MRNA) meetings are held on the **first Saturday** of each month. All Mesquite Ranch residents are encouraged to come and learn about upcoming social events like MRNA's awesome Fall community BBQ and movie nights! On August 4, 2012 MRNA will hold their **ANNUAL MEETING** where several board positions will be available for occupancy. During the annual meeting, elections will be held for board member positions. Please note VOTING WILL OCCUR at this annual meeting! Free pizza and drinks will be available for all attendees while supplies last, and residents are encouraged to bring folding chairs as seating may be limited.

If you would like to serve your community this is the time to act. If you've not attended a MRNA meeting you have no idea what you've been missing! Check the MRNA website or subscribe to MRNAInfo for the latest news & updates. This is YOUR Neighborhood Association! Take time to attend one of our monthly meetings. They're interesting and informative. Come Happy...Leave Happy!

For questions or comments, please contact Barry Webb at mrna@mesquiteranch.org or call 520.444.2024.

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Mesquite Ranch Community Crier

Mesquite Ranch Neighborhood Association Summer 2012 Volume II Issue 4

**2011-2012
Board of Directors**

- Keith Miller**
President
- Cindy Copley**
Vice President
- Sam Hagadorn**
Secretary
- Barry Webb**
Treasurer
- Luis Quintero**
Director
- Brandi Dahl**
Director
- Randall Pierce**
Director



Committee Chairs

- Sam Hagadorn**
Community Services
- Barry Webb**
Newsletter
- Keith Miller**
Plans & Development
- Randall Pierce**
Website
- Cindy Copley**
Brandi Dahl
Social
- Sam Hagadorn**
Traffic & Safety

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

It has been awhile since the Mesquite Ranch Neighborhood Association put out a newsletter. A lot has happened since the last one including several community BBQs, community yard sales, and periodic spring and fall clean-ups. Despite limited newsletters, the MRNA Board of Directors has continued to consistently represent the Mesquite Ranch community supporting Ward 4 and City projects including the Ward 4 annual back to school bash and the Houghton Road Widening Project ... just to name a few.

The MRNA held their annual meeting in August 2011 and voted in new board members. The new board members serving our community are:

President	Keith Miller
Vice President	Cindy Copley
Secretary	Sam Hagadorn
Treasurer	Barry Webb
Director	Luis Quintero
Director	Brandi Dahl
Director	Randall Pierce

The board quickly planned and executed two community BBQs and initiated special "Movie Nights" which have proven to be a REAL crowd pleaser. Movie nights are becoming increasingly popular and are just plain FUN for kids AND parents! In addition, the Mesquite Ranch subdivision has enjoyed continued City support for community cleanup dumpsters twice a year which are still free. MRNA has listened to residents and rotated the location of dumpsters to share the burden of traffic and noise that can occur at dumpster sites. The use of dumpsters supporting the community cleanup continues to be well supported as each of the four containers are filled to the brim when removed by the City.

MRNA residents continue to participate in Ward IV and community events. Five Mesquite Ranch volunteers contributed time and talents to the 11th annual Back-to-School Bash last August, distributing thousands of dollars in school supplies, backpacks, and raffle tickets to all participating students within the Ward IV boundaries. Ward 4 presented a certificate of appreciation to MRNA for ten consecutive years of continued support for this important community event. MRNA salutes Paige Calloway, Jillian Calloway, Lacey Calloway, Cindy Copley, and Keith Miller for their unselfish contribution in representing our active community.

If you haven't attended a MRNA monthly meeting, or if you've wanted to attend a meeting but haven't due to a scheduling conflict, I would encourage you to make the extra effort to attend our next meeting, August 4, 2012, which will be a special **ANNUAL MEETING**. New board members will be nominated and voted in by the community all in one night. Any resident 18 years or older can vote whether you are a home owner or renting, BUT, you must be present to vote. So come on out to the east pool facility at 6:30pm and enjoy getting to know some neighbors while being active in your community. I hear FREE pizza and drinks will be available!! Hope to see you there!!

SOCIAL HAPPENINGS

COMMUNITY MOVIE NIGHTS BECOME A CRAZY HIT — As mentioned earlier in this newsletter there has been explosive support for community “Movie Nights”. MRNA has hosted several movie nights featuring such movies as “The Wizard of OZ”, “It’s The Great Pumpkin Charlie Brown”, “RIO”, and “Happy Feet 2” offering fresh popcorn and lots of fun. All movies are shown at the East Pool facility and the community social chair, Cindy Copley, anticipates holding several more movie nights before year’s end. Check the MRNA website often or subscribe to MRNAInfo to keep up with community happenings!

COMMUNITY BBQs WELL ATTENDED — Two community BBQs combined with a Movie Night have been held since the last newsletter. The Spring 2012 BBQ went very well, and was by far the best attended since the community western BBQ a few years ago. A count of attendees could not be accomplished, as there were so many residents present and moving around. All of the burgers and hotdogs were like ... GONE ... but lasted until close to the end of the event. Residents contributed several side dishes rounding out a very successful evening. As always admission to all community events is free!

PLANS & DEVELOPMENT

HOUGHTON ROAD WIDENING— I know what you’re saying ... Yeah, Yeah, Yeah ... Houghton widening will NEVER be completed! Well it has taken a long time to get where we are and there have been some bumps in the road ... but read on for the latest update from the TDOT Project Planner:

“Thank you for your patience as we prepare to rebid the Houghton, Irvington to Valencia project. We know it is taking forever, so we would like to give you an overview of what we have recently completed, and what we have left to do. In a nutshell, we should have dirt flying at the end of September. This is how we will get there:

Completed: Audit, Value Analysis, Final Plans, specifications, engineer’s estimate (PS&Es), right of way acquisitions, utility relocations, Small and Minority Business goals coordinated with the RTA.

In progress: Preparation of final contracts. In line behind the paperwork required to roll out the \$18 million in street repairs.

Schedule: Early July: Contract will advertise for bids. This will be out for 3 to 4 weeks, depending on questions we receive.

Mid August: Close bids and select the contractor. Once the bid is closed, we will vet the low bid contractor and determine if we can award a contract (verify their insurance, bonding, ability to perform etc). This takes about 2 weeks.

Beginning of September: Issue Contractor their Notice to Proceed. The contractor will prepare their mobilization, order supplies, set up their field offices, etc. During this period we will have an open house to introduce you to the contractor and provide you with emergency contact numbers, etc. We will also hold a ground breaking ceremony.

End of September/Early October: Construction Starts.

Although we will try to make this all happen faster, we are very short staffed at a time when we are rolling out more projects than we ever have. We appreciate your patience, and are as excited about getting this started as you are. In the meantime our streets crews are wrapping up shoulder repair work and will be restriping the roadway in preparation of our upcoming monsoons.”

BUS ROUTE COMING TO SOUTHEAST TUCSON! - Sun Shuttle, the City of Tucson and the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) are working towards starting a new bus route for southeastern Tucson. The route will connect riders from southeast Tucson neighborhoods to UA Tech Park to the south, and Pima College East and Kolb & Broadway to the north. A new 30 foot, wheelchair accessible bus has been purchased for the route. The bus will be installed with a bike rack so bike riders can take their bikes with them on their trips. The route will tentatively start in mid-August.

The bus fare will mirror Sun Tran rates, and riders will be able to transfer to and from Sun Tran routes for free. Riders can transfer to and from routes at the 3 Park & Rides at Kolb & Broadway, Pima College East and Old Vail Rd near Houghton.

Sun Shuttle Route 450 will travel on a set schedule throughout the Southeast & Rita Ranch area, allowing riders to travel to and from work, home, school, medical appointments, recreation and shopping. The new route will also allow riders to transfer for free to Sun Tran routes to access the entire Tucson area. Sun Shuttle bus fares will mirror Sun Tran rates.

Sun Shuttle Route 450 will be paid for by a combination of Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) and federal funding. Current funding for this route will provide bus service Monday through Friday for roughly 13 hours per day.

RECENT HAPPENINGS

MARQUETTE STREET TRAFFIC FLOW—On 28 February 2012, members of the MRNA board attended a meeting at Senita Valley Elementary School to discuss the traffic flow issues to and from the grade school and neighboring Middle School. City of Tucson Ward IV official, Andy Squire stressed to those attending, that under no circumstances would Marquette Street be opened to general traffic. According to the original plan okayed by the city and the builders, the Marquette Street access to the schools was to be reserved for emergency vehicles only. However, pedestrian and bicycle traffic may continue to use it.

During this meeting Mr. Squire also suggested that a donation of state land east of Mesquite Ranch could allow the city to provide access to the Middle School directly from Poorman Road. As an interim measure, Mr. Squire recommended that the school realign the parking areas for teachers and visitors so as to be able to reroute traffic flow on the school property and ease congestion.

FUTURE EVENTS—Over the summer, MRNA plans to schedule a few more movie nights and other goodies, so check the website periodically for announcements. MRNA will also hold our traditional annual fall BBQ, with giveaways, though a date has not yet been set. Stay tuned for that.

The MRNA also now has a FACEBOOK page! Our new Facebook page is listed under: Mesquite Ranch Neighborhood Association. This page will provide information on upcoming meetings & events. It is by no means a replacement for the MRNA website but is intended to be one more way to communicate with our community.

WARD 4 BACK TO SCHOOL BASH—Ward 4 is turning up the fun and giving out free school supplies at their upcoming 12th Annual Ward IV Back to School Bash scheduled for Saturday, August 4th at the Clements Center, 8155 East Poinciana. ALL RESIDENTS are invited!! A FREE pancake breakfast starts at 7am, a Bike Safety Rodeo at 8am, booths and displays from 9-noon, and raffles from 8-11:30am. Don't miss this event if you would like a chance to win some cool electronics, or a chance to win a new bicycle! If you would like to volunteer to help, please contact Cindy Copley at mrnavicepresident@mesquiteranch.org or Renee Sowards at the Ward IV Council Office at renee.sowards@tucsonaz.gov.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

TUCSON POLICE DEPARTMENT ACTIVATES NEW ALARM UNIT

TPD has created a new “alarm unit” designed to partnership with the community of Tucson to increase the effectiveness of their alarm systems and reduce false alarms.

The Tucson Police Department Alarm Unit enforces the City of Tucson Alarm Ordinance #9755, which regulates Alarm Users, Alarm Businesses, Alarm Agents, and Monitoring Companies. The City of Tucson's Alarm Ordinance is intended to encourage the improvement in reliability of alarm systems and devices to reduce the incidence of false alarms at businesses and residential structures, thereby ensuring that police personnel will not be diverted from responding to actual criminal activity.

Together with the Tucson Police Department you, too, can help reduce the number of false alarms. PLEASE NOTE not understanding the new ordinance could result in monetary fines assessed against you! For more information about the alarm ordinance and what you can do to help reduce alarm false alarms please visit <http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/police/alarm-education>.

TRAFFIC AND SAFETY

MOTORCYCLE AND ATV RECREATIONAL VEHICLES - Mesquite Ranch and surrounding communities have many residents that enjoy off-road recreation. Two and four wheel motorized vehicles are popular and fun entertainment in many desert areas. There are several designated areas in southeast Tucson where off-road vehicles can be safely operated.

Residents are asked to help keep our community safe by following the rules when operating licensed or non-licensed off-road vehicles in and around the Mesquite Ranch subdivision. For licensed vehicles, operators must have the license and registration with them while operating vehicles on city streets and may not operate vehicles off-road in city limits within 1/4 mile of residential areas including wash areas and dirt roads within the subdivision. Non-licensed vehicles must be trailered to approved off-road facilities. Operating off-road vehicles on state owned land, like the land east and south of the Mesquite Ranch subdivision, requires a special state permit, and even with a permit, may not be operated within 1/4 mile of the subdivision boundary.